



MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB JUNE 1971

147 TOORAK ROAD, SOUTH YARRA
BOX 1267L, G.P.O., MELBOURNE, 3001

HISTORY: The club was started about 1951 by a group of fans who started meeting at one another's homes. Originally to exchange the rare sf books and magazines then available and to talk with people with a common interest. Eventually a library was established and city premises were found.

ACTIVITIES: The library has been a feature of the club at all times, but an informal atmosphere has always been evident and it developed into a meeting place where people could come and meet their friends and talk about anything they liked or take part in the various indoor games always in progress.

MAGAZINES : It seems that whenever Science Fiction fans get together they decide to publish their own magazine and an integral part of fandom all over the world is the publishing of 'Fanzines'. Numerous publications have been published by Melbourne fans and some have gained world recognition. We are in the club itself publishing a quarterly magazine and a monthly news letter, but at least six of our members are currently doing their own thing and many of their copies are exchanged with fans overseas. All fans are invited to take part with articles, reviews and art work.

MOVIES: Originally started as an adjunct to club activities the FANTASY FILM GROUP has its own projector and regularly screens films for the members. Theatre parties also are arranged when appropriate films are being screened. Details of current screening will be found in the latest issue of our club newsletter herewith or will be sent on request.

CONVENTIONS: Regular get-togethers are held at which science fiction is discussed, art work, books and magazines are displayed, movies are screened, every body meets friends from the country and interstate and generally speaking a good time is had by all. Most of the conventions have been held in Melbourne and Sydney, but this year Brisbane got into the act and I think we will be going to other states in the near future.

THE WORLD CONVENTION: Every year there is held the WORLD SF CONVENTION. This is usually in the United States, but it has been held in England twice and in Heidelberg, Germany last year. The interest and enthusiasm in Australia at present is such that we are bidding to run the WORLD CONVENTION in MELBOURNE in 1975. Many visitors from overseas will be here including well known SF authors, but we must put in our bid and it will be voted upon at the World SF Convention to be held in either DALLAS, TEXAS or MONTREAL, CANADA in 1973. Fans from Australia will be attending every year from now but a big delegation will be going over in 1973. Their is a tremendous amount of work to be put into our bid however and your moral support and otherwise is eagerly sort.

PTO

ASSOCIATED INTERESTS:

Many SF fans are also interested in other forms of literature including fantasy like the LORD of the RINGS or illustrated publications such as MARVEL COMICS. There is a tremendous interest in the USA at present in super hero comics mainly because of the art work. This interest is also carried over into the field of sf and fantasy art work on the covers and interiors in some cases of books and paperbacks. Besides our wide collection of SF books and magazines the MSFC has also a representative collection of comics for members to peruse.

Members of the FANTASY FILM GROUP have taken part in the promotion of such films as The DUNWICH HORROR, DRACULA HAS RISEN FROM THE GRAVE and the VAMPIRE MOVERS. The FILM GROUP was just starting to become very popular late in 1970 when we were forced to vacate the then premises we were using. The MSFC has found temporary residence at 147 Toorak Road and hopes to find permanent headquarters back in the city in the near future, however for the time being regular meetings are being held there every WEDNESDAY evening at 8 PM. The entrance is at the rear of the Chemist shop on the corner of DARLING ST.

The main problem for permanent space for the MSFC is somewhere to house the collection of books and magazines. For those members not particularly interested in the library we have decided to hold regular meetings at a city hotel or bistro at least once a month. Details of the next meeting will be found in the current issue of the club newsletter ETHERLINE. A select group of members who call themselves THE NOVA MOB hold regular meetings at their homes or the Degraeves Tavern in Degraeves Street, Melbourne. Discussion at these meetings usually includes, the latest sf books received, fanzines and conventions. For those who wish to seriously discuss the pros and cons of sf literature, the NOVA MOB meetings are the place.

MOVIES: The activities of the MELBOURNE FANTASY FILM GROUP will we hope in the near future be expanding. Membership is already a separate concern from the MSFC but at the moment MSFC members may attend screenings at the FG member concessions. If negotiations currently being carried out come to fulfillment regular screenings will be held at an inner suburban theatre or we may be building our own theatre. If you are interested in seeing such films as BRIDE of FRANKENSTEIN, KING KONG, SPACE ODDYSEY, ROSEMARY'S BABY, METROPOLIS, FLASH GORDON, WAR OF THE WORLDS, FAUST and many others, keep in touch.

MEMBERSHIP CHARGES and SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Membership of the MSFC for one year is \$2.00. This entitles you to receive all copies of the club Newsletter ETHERLINE and to take advantage of any other club activities available including the library. A donation is requested at all meetings to cover the cost of rent and additions to the library. Membership of the FANTASY FILM GROUP is also \$2 and for the time being you will receive copies of ETHERLINE but we hope later that the MFTG will produce their own mag. If you wish to join both the Film Group and the SF Club a combined membership is available at \$3.00. When the FG however is fully operational this concession may be dropped, so do take advantage of it now.

The club's second magazine THE GAZETTE is available to members at 20c, others 30c. Members subscription \$1.00 others \$1.50. Interstate and country fans wishing to receive both ETHERLINE and the GAZETTE can subscribe for \$2.50. Many people will continue to receive ETHERLINE because of their involvement in fan activities even if they do not subscribe, but we do hope that you will all make a contribution to our costs. We feel that in all our activities we are furthering the cause of SF fandom and the Australia in 75 Bid in particular.

For further information write to us or contact me at SPACE AGE BOOKSHOP
7th Floor, 94 Elizabeth Str up till the end of June. Phone 68 2557. From July 1st
onward 317 Swanton Street, Melbourne. Home Phone 93 2123

Merv Binns Secretary.